

(*Occ. Papers Nat. Mus. S. Rhod.*, 23B, 1959: 280). The Barotse specimens include two from as far west as Sinjembele, on the Mashi. A male from 10 miles west of Nangweshi, 30th November, 1963, had testes as large as 8 x 5, 11 x 6 mm., but the nearest suitable aquatic breeding habitat is probably on the Zambezi, at Nangweshi itself.

Tree found a nest containing two young about one week old at the Lukanga/Kafue confluence, 17th February, 1965. For other breeding records from Kafue drainage where, following White (*Revised check list Afr. flycatchers etc.*, 1963: 123), the subspecies is perhaps best regarded as *A. a. albifrons* (Vigors), see Benson (*loc. cit. supra*) and Benson & Pitman (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 1964: 59).

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Notes on *Icterus chrysocephalus* and *Icterus cayanensis* in Surinam

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Received 17th August, 1965

In Surinam the distribution of two closely related species of oriole *Icterus chrysocephalus* and *Icterus cayanensis* overlaps.

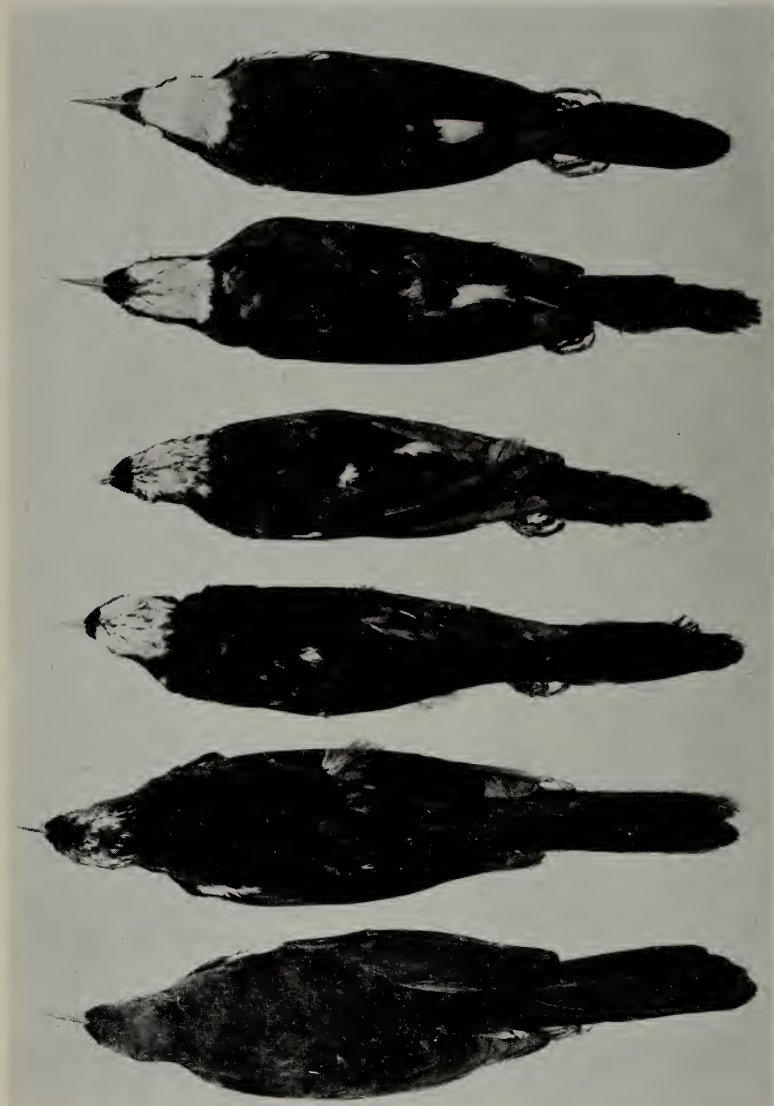
According to Hellmayr (1937) *I. chrysocephalus* is the more northern bird which inhabits Colombia, the Orinoco Valley in Venezuela, eastern Ecuador, eastern Peru (Ucayali Valley), the Guianas and extreme northern Brazil (upper stretches of the Rio Branco and the Rio Negro). No subspecies have been described.

Icterus cayanensis is a more southern bird and several subspecies are recognised. The nominate race overlaps with *I. chrysocephalus* in the Amazon Valley (it is, however, not clear whether both species inhabit the same localities), in French Guiana and in Surinam, in eastern Peru and apparently also, according to Chubb (1921) in British Guiana. Both species are mainly black and both have yellow wing-coverts and yellow thighs: the sexes are alike. The difference between them is that *chrysocephalus* also has a yellow crown (the forehead is black), a yellow rump and yellow under tail-coverts which are all black in *cayanensis*. There is some confusion in the description of both species in the hand-books. Sclater (1886) for instance omits to say that *chrysocephalus* has a yellow rump and under tail-coverts and that *cayanensis* has yellow thighs.

Chubb (1921) lists only *chrysocephalus* for British Guiana, but his description is partly incorrect as he states that the female lacks the yellow on the crown, rump and thighs which clearly points to *cayanensis*. As he

describes a female obtained in British Guiana we may consider this as proof that *cayanensis* inhabits that country.

In Surinam *I. chrysocephalus* is undoubtedly the commoner of the two, at least in the northern part of the country, where I found it breeding on sandy savannas especially in the neighbourhood of Morice Palm trees (*Mauritia flexuosa*) in March and August (Haverschmidt 1955). I further found that in Surinam specimens which are closely intermediate between



Intermediate specimens between *Icterus chrysocephalus* and *Icterus cayanensis* from Surinam.
 Left to right—No. 4875, ♂ Zanderij 3rd September, 1961, No. 7090 ♂ Phedra 2nd January, 1965, No. 7093, ♀ Phedra 2nd January, 1965, No. 7068, ♀ Phedra 27th December, 1964, No. 7092, ♀ Phedra, 2nd January, 1965, No. 6439, ♂ Zanderij 26th December, 1963 specimen of a pure *I. chrysocapthalmus*.

the two species are apparently not common. In my series of 14 specimens there are five which are intermediate:

No. 4875, Zanderij, September 3, 1961. Male with greatly enlarged testes. It is nearly a pure *cayanensis* as the head is wholly black as are the under tail-coverts. A few of the feathers on the rump are tipped with yellow. The thighs are yellow. It was labelled by the late Dr. Junge as *I. cayanensis*.

No. 7090, Phedra (Surinamriver), January 2, 1965. Male with greatly enlarged testes. It has a few yellow feathers mixed in the black crown feathers, a few yellow feathers on the black rump, and the under tail-coverts are black.

No. 7093, Same locality and date. Female, ovary not enlarged. The yellow crown is streaked with black, the rump and under tail-coverts are yellow.

No. 7068. Same locality, collected on December 27, 1964. Female, ovary not enlarged. The crown is yellow streaked with black but to a lesser extent than No. 7093.

No. 7092. Same locality, collected on January 2, 1965. Female, ovary not enlarged. The frontal side of the yellow crown is streaked with black but not the hinderpart.

Another specimen (no. 7091), a male in non-breeding condition from Phedra January 2, 1965 is remarkable in that the black feathers on the abdomen are narrowly tipped with yellow giving it a yellow tinge; otherwise it is a pure *chrysocephalus*.

The status of these intermediate birds is difficult to explain. We could consider them as hybrids as Surinam is part of the region where both species overlap. On the other hand it is certain that *chrysocephalus* is the more numerous of the two. In fact I know of only two pure *I. cayanensis* collected in Surinam. The first one is mentioned by Sclater (1886): it is without locality and date, but was collected by C. Bartlett. This collector stayed for some time in Surinam as a guest on August Kappler's plantation near Albina on the Marowijne River, so I may suggest that it was collected in that region. The second is in the Chicago Natural History Museum and was collected by Harry S. Beatty on 25th November, 1960 near the air strip near Kayser Mountain. It is a female in partial moult and it has a few yellow feathers on the thighs (Emmet Blake *in litt.*) as has the specimen in the British Museum.

Burmeister (1856) who gives a correct description of both species said that *I. cayanensis* usually has yellow thighs. It will be interesting to collect breeding pairs.

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